

REMARKS

The above amendment is believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.

Early and favorable action is awaited.

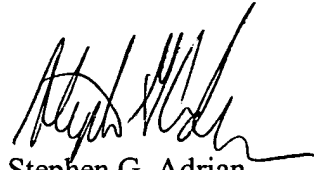
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No.

01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following claims have been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the oxy anion compound has no functional group other than an oxy anion group.

8. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the oxy anion compound has a group represented by the general formula 1:



in the formula, R^1 represents an organic group which may optionally contain one or more ether or ester linkages, and M^+ represents an alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion.

10. (Amended) The production method according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein, in the general formula 1 or 2, R^1 or R^2 is a univalent or bivalent organic group.

11. (Amended) The production method according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein, in the general formula 2, R^2 is an aromatic group.

12. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8, wherein, in the general formula 1, M^+ is a potassium ion.

13. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1,

wherein the oxy anion compound comprises at least one salt selected from the group consisting of alkoxide salts, phenoxide salts and carboxylate salts, and the counter ion thereto is an alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion.

16. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, wherein the vinyl polymer (I) is produced by atom transfer radical polymerization.

19. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1, wherein a main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is a (meth) acrylic polymer.

21. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1, wherein the main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is a styrenic polymer.

22. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 21~~ claim 1, wherein a ratio (M_w/M_n) between weight average molecular weight (M_w) and number average molecular weight (M_n) of the vinyl polymer (I) is less than 1.8 as determined by gel permeation chromatography.

23. (Amended) The production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 22~~ claim 1, wherein the number average molecular weight of the vinyl polymer (I) is within the range of 500 to 100,000.

24. (Amended) A vinyl polymer which is producible by the production method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 23~~ claim 1.